

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A magneto-optical recording medium comprising:
a magnetic recording layer for recording and
holding information;

a nonmagnetic layer provided on one side of said
magnetic recording layer opposite to another side on
which a light beam is incident; and

a magnetic assist layer provided on said
nonmagnetic layer;

said magnetic assist layer having a coercive force
smaller than an external magnetic field applied in
recording or reproducing information.

2. A magneto-optical recording medium according to
claim 1, wherein said magnetic assist layer has magnetic
isotropy.

3. A magneto-optical recording medium according to
claim 2, wherein said magnetic assist layer comprises a
multilayer film composed of nonmagnetic metal and
transition metal.

4. A magneto-optical recording medium according to
claim 1, wherein the Curie temperature (T_{c1}) of said
magnetic recording layer is lower than the Curie
temperature (T_{c2}) of said magnetic assist layer.

5. A magneto-optical recording medium having a

configuration such that information recorded can be read from a region smaller than a beam spot by applying an external magnetic field and directing a light beam in reproducing, said magneto-optical recording medium comprising:

- a magnetic recording layer for recording and holding information;

- a magnetic reproducing layer provided on one side of said magnetic recording layer on which said light beam is incident;

- a nonmagnetic layer provided on another side of said magnetic recording layer opposite to said magnetic reproducing layer; and

- a magnetic assist layer provided on said nonmagnetic layer;

- said magnetic assist layer having a coercive force smaller than an external magnetic field applied in recording or reproducing information.

6. A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 5, wherein the Curie temperature (T_{c1}) of said magnetic recording layer is lower than the Curie temperature (T_{c2}) of said magnetic assist layer.

7. A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 5, wherein said magnetic assist layer comprises a

rare earth-transition metal amorphous alloy film.

8. A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 7, wherein said magnetic assist layer comprises a GdFeCo film.